

1 CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A landscape/erosion control structure for retaining landscaping materials, the landscape/erosion control structure comprising:
 - a. a lower support structure;
 - b. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a distal end;
 - 10 c. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist between most of the distal portions of the spines; and
 - d. the spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest position.
2. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
a substantial number of the distal ends of the spines do not touch other spines.
3. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
the distal portions of the spine have a designated width and the spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is substantially greater than the width of the spines.
4. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein;
when the plurality of spines are in the rest position, the distal portions of most of the spines are disposed at an acute angle to the lower support structure.
5. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
said plurality of spines are arranged in discrete rows.
6. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:

- 1 said elongated distal portions of said spines are generally directed in a similar direction.
7. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
5 said base portions of said spines are wider than said elongated distal portions.
8. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
10 said distal ends of said spines come to a point.
9. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 7, wherein:
 said spines have a triangular shape.
- 15 10. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
 the distal portions of the spines are curved.
11. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
20 the distal portions of the spines are curled.
12. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
 the distal portions of the spines are angled nearly parallel to the lower support structure.
25
13. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
 the lower support structure is landscape fabric material and the landscape fabric material substantially blocks the transmission of sunlight through the landscape fabric material.
30
14. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:
 the lower support structure does not block the transmission of sunlight.
- 35 15. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 1, wherein:

- 1 a. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips that carry the spines;
 b. said plurality of strips being joined together.
- 5 16. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 15, further comprising:
- a. a plurality of second strips that do not have spines;
 b. a sheet of landscape fabric material; and
10 c. said sheet of landscape fabric material is disposed between said plurality of strips that carry the spines and the plurality of second strips that do not have spines.
17. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 16, wherein:
15 said second strips have pegs which are received in holes in the strips carrying the spines.
18. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 15, wherein:
- 20 a. said plurality of strips that carry the spines are elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship;
 b. each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines has a first end and a second end; and
 c. selected pairs of adjacent strips that carry the spines are
25 arranged so that the first end of the first one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the selected adjacent pair of strips.
19. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 18, wherein:
30 selected adjacent pairs of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support structure.
20. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 19, further comprising:
- 35 a. a second landscape/erosion control structure comprising:
 1. a lower support structure;

- 1 2. a plurality of spines attached to the lower support
 structure, each of said plurality of spines being formed with a
 base end, a base portion, an elongated distal portion, and a
 distal end;
- 5 3. wherein the spines are arranged in relation to each other
 and to the lower support structure such that spaces exist
 between most of the distal portions of the spines, and the
 spines are relatively stiff such that the distal ends of the spines
10 stand away from the lower support structure when in a rest
 position; and
4. said lower support structure comprises a plurality of strips
 that carry the spines, said plurality of strips being joined
 together, said plurality of strips that carry the spines are
 elongated and are arranged in substantially parallel relationship,
15 each of said plurality of strips that carry the spines having a first
 end and a second end, and selected pairs of adjacent strips that
 carry the spines are arranged so that the first end of the first
 one of said strips making up the selected pair of adjacent strips
 is not in alignment with the first end of the second strip of the
20 selected adjacent pair of strips, and the selected adjacent pairs
 of strips occur at regular intervals along the lower support
 structure; and wherein
- b. the first and second landscape/erosion control structures are
 arranged so that the second ends of the strips carrying the spines of
25 the first landscape/erosion control structure are adjacent to the first
 ends of the strips carrying the spines of the second landscape/erosion
 control structure.
21. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 2, wherein:
30 the distal portions of the spine have a designated width and the
 spaces between the distal portions of adjacent spines is substantially
 greater than the width of the spines.
22. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 21, wherein;
35

- 1 when the plurality of spines are in the rest position, the distal portions
of most of the spines are disposed at an acute angle to the lower
support structure.
- 5 23. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 22, wherein:
said elongated distal portions of said spines are generally directed in a
similar direction.
- 10 24. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 23, wherein:
the distal portions of the spines are curved.
25. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 24, wherein:
the distal portions of the spines are curled.
- 15 26. The landscape/erosion control structure of claim 25, wherein:
the lower support structure is landscape fabric material and the
landscape fabric material substantially blocks the transmission of
sunlight through the landscape fabric material.
- 20

25

30

35